

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-04 DRC-01 EB-04

COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-01 OPIC-06 CIEP-01 /072 W

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O R 151114Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7447

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14168

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

DIA FOR A2 AND D15

PASS TREASURY

REF: ROME 13977

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1. ON OCTOBER 14 PRESIDENT LEONE CONFERRED ON SENATOR FANFANI, AS EXPECTED, THE MANDATE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. SENATOR SPAGNOLLI'S SOUNDINGS HAD REGISTERED NO CHANGE IN THE DIVERGENT POSITIONS OF THE COALITION PARTIES, AND FANFANI UNDERTOOK HIS OWN PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS AMID DEEPENING PESSIMISM THAT THE FOUR-PARTY FORMULA CENTER-LEFT FORMULA COULD BE REVIVED. FANFANI WILL BEGIN HIS CRUCIAL FORMAL MEETINGS WITH THE CENTER-LEFT PARTIES FOLLOWING PSI DIRECTORATE MEETING TODAY AND DC DIRECTORATE SESSION OCTOBER 16.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE WAS THE UNANIMOUS CHOICE OF HIS PARTY AND WILL APPARENTLY BE ALLOWED TO RETAIN HIS POST AS DC PARTY SECRETARY, FANFANI ACCEPTED THE PRESIDENTIAL MANDATE WITH OBVIOUS RELUCTANCE. THE CHANCES FOR RESUSCITATION OF THE CENTER-LEFT APPEAR LESS THAN EVEN, AND FANFANI, WHO HELPED BRING THE CENTER-LEFT FORMULA INTO BEING, MAY NOW BE CONSTRAINED TO PRONOUNCE IT OFFICIALLY DEAD. DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAVE SURFACED SHOWING THAT A SUBSTANTIAL MINORITY WOULD PREFER TO RETURN TO THE OPPOSITION, LIMITING THE MAJORITY LEADERSHIP'S FLEXIBILITY TO COMPROMISE. EVEN THE DE MARTINO MAJORITY EXCLUDES ANY SOLUTION WHICH AS THEY SEE IT, MIGHT TEND TO PUT THE PARTY, AS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT, IN AN ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP WITH LABOR. MEANWHILE, THE PSDI MAJORITY FACTION HAS RESTATED ITS PARTY'S UNABAILABILITY FOR ANYTHING BUT A FOUR-PARTY COALITION AS THE CENTER-LEFT WAS ORIGINALLY CONVEIVED. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTY FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME14168
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740292-0597
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741046/aaaabnlj.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 13977
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS DIA FOR A2 AND D15
TAGS: PINT, IT, (FANFANI), (LEONE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005